

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07722 01 OF 02 121114Z

ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DPW-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 994

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 7722

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICRC

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS APPEAL FOR
VICTIMS OF THE OGADEN CONFLICT

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ICRC:

QUOTE

MISSION PERMANENTE DES ETATS UNIS

URGENT : INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS APPEAL FOR
VICTIMS OF OGADEN CONFLICT

PRIMO

DURING PAST WEEKS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS HAS
CLOSELY FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENT OF ARMED CONFLICT IN OGADEN REGION
AND GATHERED INFORMATION ABOUT VICTIMS AND NEEDS. TODAY ICRC
LAUNCHES URGENT APPEAL TO NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND
GOVERNMENTS FOR FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT ENABLING IT TO PRO-
TECT AND ASSIST NEEDY PERSONS ON BOTH SIDES OF CONFLICT

SECUNDO

REGARDLESS OF DIVERGING INTERPRETATIONS OF NATURE OF CONFLICT, IT
IS IMPERATIVE FOR ICRC TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07722 01 OF 02 121114Z

AND MILITARY VICTIMS.

TERTIO

EARLY AUGUST ICRC ADDRESSED AN APPEAL TO ALL PARTIES TO THE
CONFLICT AS WELL AS FOR THEIR INFORMATION TO PRESIDENT AND
SECRETARY GENERAL OF ORGANISATION FOR AFRICAN UNITY OF WHICH
SUMMARY AS FOLLOWS :

QUOTE

MEMORANDUM

1) THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) IS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY VICTIMS CAUSED BY THE ARMED CONFLICT IN THE OGADEN. IT INVITES ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO RESPECT AND MAKE THEIR COMBATTANTS APPLY THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS.

2) THE ICRC OFFERS ITS SERVICES TO ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO:

A) VISIT ALL PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED BY THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, IN CONFORMITY WITH ARTICLE 126 OF THE THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949, AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH WHATEVER PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE THEY MAY REQUIRE

B) ASSIST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AFFECTED BY THE HOSTILITIES WITH NEEDED RELIEF SUPPLIES SUCH AS MEDICAMENTS, FOOD, BLANKETS, ETC.

3) THE ICRC HAS DESPATCHED TWO OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES, MR. JEAN-FRANCOIS BOREL AND MR. ULRICH BEDERT, TO ADDIS ABABA AND TO MOGADISCIO RESPECTIVELY, IN ORDER TO INVITE ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO RESPECT THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 07722 01 OF 02 121114Z

TO OFFER THE ICRC S SERVICES FOR ANY HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN FAVOR OF THE VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT. THE ICRC APPEALS TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO FACILITATE BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS THE STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN MISSION OF ITS DELEGATES.

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QUARTO

MR. J.-F. BOREL, REGIONAL DELEGATE OF ICRC, CARRIED OUT A FIRST MISSION TO ADDIS ABABA AUGUST 2-15. ON AUGUST 6 HE MET COLONEL ATNAFU ABATE, FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, AND ON AUGUST 10 THE ETHIOPIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE. HE ALSO HAD CONTACTS WITH ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION AND OAU SECRETARIAT. ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES INDICATED TO MR. BOREL THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO APPLY GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND ASSURED HIM OF ALL NECESSARY FACILITIES FOR VISITING PRISONERS OF WAR HELD BY THEM AND FOR LAUNCHING RELIEF OPERATION IN FAVOUR OF CIVILIAN VICTIMS.

QUINTO

SIMULTANEOUSLY, ANOTHER REGIONAL DELEGATE, MR. U. BEDERT, VISITED MOGADISHU AUGUST 4-11. HE DISCUSSED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT PRACTICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN

ICRC AND WSLF, WITH THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF SOMALI RED
CRESCENT, IN SOLVING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS EXISTING IN AREA UNDER
WSLF CONTROL

SEXTO

FOLLOWING THESE EXPLORATORY VISITS, ICRC SENT BY AIR FROM NAIROBI
TO ADDIS ABABA AND MOGADISHU TWO SHIPMENTS OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SUPPLIES AND DRUGS VALUED AT 30.000.-- SWISS FRANCS. THESE SUPPLIES
WERE RAPIDLY TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITALS IN THE WAR ZONES

SEPTIMO

ICRC DELEGATES AGAIN VISITED ADDIS ABABA AND MOGADISHU FROM
AUGUST 24

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 07722 01 OF 02 121114Z

ALPHA. IN ETHIOPIA, MR. BOREL VISITED ON AUGUST 27 SEVERAL
PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED BY ETHIOPIAN FORCES AND DETAINED IN
DIRE DAWA. AT SAME TIME REPRESENTATIVES OF ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS
AND RRC CARRIED OUT 5 DAYS SURVEY OF RELIEF NEEDS OF CIVILIAN
POPULATION AND DIPLACED PERSONS IN WAR ZONE (SEE BELOW). AT
PRESENT MR. BOREL, IN COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
IS REUNITING ALL PRISONERS IN ONE PLACE OF DETENTION IN ADDIS
ABABA AND DRAWING UP COMPLETE LIST

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07722 02 OF 02 121106Z
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R 121018Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 7722

BRAVO. IN SOMALIA/OGADEN, FOLLOWING RENEWED CONTACTS WITH WSLF, MR. BEDERT MADE FIRST VISIT TO THE OGADEN REGION UNDER WSLF CONTROL AUGUST 27-31. ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF WSLF AND MR. NILS GUSSING, LEAGUE DELEGATE POSTED TO SOMALIA FOR DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATION, THE ICRC DELEGATE WAS ABLE TO MAKE DETAILED EVALUATION OF RELIEF NEEDS WHICH THE CONFLICT HAD CREATED AMONG CIVILIAN POPULATION (SEE BELOW). HE ALSO OBTAINED WSLF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO ALLOW ICRC TO VISIT, AT A LATER DATE, PRISONERS IT HAD CAPTURED.

OCTAVIO

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF RELIEF NEEDS OF CONFLICT VICTIMS

ALPHA. ETHIOPIA. 53.000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE FIGHTING, OF WHICH 38.000 ARE AT PRESENT LOCATED IN VARIOUS TOWNS AND VILLAGES ALONG ADDIS-DIRE DAWA-HARRAR ROAD AND 15.000 IN BALE AND SIDAMO PROVINCES.

PRIORITY NEEDS ARE :- MEDICAL SUPPLIES (BLOOD PLASMA OR SUBSTITUTES, DRESSING MATERIAL, ANTIBIOTICS, DISINFECTANTS, SURGICAL EQUIPMENT, MULTIVITAMINES, ETC)

- BLANKETS AND MATTRESSES OR STRAW MATS

- TENTS

- PROTEIN FOODS

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07722 02 OF 02 121106Z

LARGE QUANTITIES OF BASIC CARBOHYDRATE FOODSTUFFS, PARTICULARLY WHEAT FLOUR, ARE AT PRESENT IN STOCK AT ASSAB HARBOUR. TRANSPORT OF THESE GOODS TO WAR ZONE IS HOWEVER PROBLEMATIC FOR LOGISTIC AND MILITARY REASONS. 8 HOSPITALS LOCATED IN DIRE DAWA, HARRAR AND JIJIGA URGENTLY NEED TO BE RESUPPLIED WITH DRUGS AND MATERIAL FOR ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE OF NUMEROUS CASUALTIES. DETAILED LIST OF THESE NEEDS, VALUED AT 105.000.-- SWISS FRANCS, HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO ICRC BY ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS

BRAVO. OGADEN. FIRST ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PERSONS, MAINLY WOMEN, CHILDREN AND AGED, ARE DISPLACED IN WABI SHEBBELE VALLEY BETWEEN LOCALITIES OF IMI, KELAFO AND GODE. HOSPITALS LOCATED IN BORDER REGION NEAR HARGEISA OVERFLOW WITH WOUNDED CASUALTIES AND REQUIRE URGENT MEDICAL SUPPLIES. PRIORITY NEEDS ARE : - DISPLACED PERSONS : 30.000 BLANKETS, 200 TONS MAIZE, 120 TONS SKIMMED MILKPOWDER, 50 TONS FULL MILK-POWDER, 48 TONS COOKING OIL, 2 TONS HOES. MOST OF THESE SUPPLIES HAVE TO BE IMPORTED FROM ABROAD. - HOSPITALS : BASIC MEDICAMENTS FOR WARTIME SUCH AS DRIED PLASMA, PLASMA SUBSTITUTE, DEXTROSE, INFUSION AND TRANSFUSION KITS, STRONG SEDATIVES, PENICILIN PROCAIN 3 MIO, TETRACYCLIN 250 MG, TRISULPHA, DISINFECTANTS AND VULNERARY POWDER, INTESTINAL DISINFECTANT (LIKE MEXAFORM), MULTIVITAMINES, FERROUS SULFATES, ASPIRIN, FANSIDAR OR CAMOQUINE, VERMIFUGES,

DRESSING MATERIAL, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, FIRST AID KITS APART FROM INITIAL ICRC SHIPMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES (SEE SEXTO), FOLLOWING RELIEF OPERATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT BY SOMALI RED CRESCENT AND LEAGUE DELEGATE :

- LOCALLY PURCHASED CLOTH FOR 5000 SWISS FRANCS
- LOCALLY PURCHASED SOAP FOR PRISONERS AND TENTS TO INCREASE CAPACITY OF BORDER HOSPITALS
- TRANSPORT OF FOODSTUFFS TO GODE REGION : 10 TONS MAIZE, 100 UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 07722 02 OF 02 121106Z

BAGS SUGAR, 77 CASES COOKING OIL, 25 CASES HONEY-MILK, 40 BAGS HIGH -PROTEIN FOOD

NONO

ARE PRESENTLY PREPARING THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE AND CONCRETE ACTIONS :

AA) SHIPMENTS BY AIR TO DIRE DAWA AND HARGEISA OF TWO BIG CONSIGNMENTS 3 TONS EACH OF URGENTLY NEEDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES. TOTAL VALUE 108.000 SWISS FRANCS. IN ORDER REDUCE TRANSPORT COSTS ARE TRYING TO PROCURE MAXIMUM IN NAIROBI AND SHIP FROM THERE

BB) DISPATCH TO ADDIS ABABA AND MOGADISHU TWO RELIEF/LOGISTICS DELEGATES TO ASSIST IN RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INCOMING RELIEF CONSIGNMENTS AND CARRY OUT IN-DEPTH SURVEYS OF NEEDS

CC) DISPATCH OF TWO DOCTOR-DELEGATES TO CARRY OUT DETAILED SURVEY OF NEEDS OF HOPITALS IN WAR ZONES.

ON BASIS OF THESE INFORMATIONS WE SHALL SUBMIT YOU ASAP DETAILED PLAN OF OPERATIONS AND BUDGET FOR COMING MONTHS. WE EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT AS OF NOW THE LAUNCHING OF THIS OPERATION REQUIRES SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND GOVERNMENTS. IMMEDIATE ACTIONS LISTED ABOVE AND INCLUDING COST OF RELIEF SUPPLIES, AIR -AND ROAD - TRANSPORT OF SUPPLIES, AND PERSONNEL/TRAVEL, IS VALUED AT TOTAL COST OF 3.600.000.-- SWISS FRANCS. GRATEFUL YOUR INFORMING US ASAP BY TELEX OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH OR KIND WHICH YOU CAN RAPIDLY MAKE TO LAUNCHING OF ICRC OPERATION. SHALL GIVE YOU ASAP DETAILED INDICATIONS WHERE TO ADDRESS RELIEF CONSIGNMENTS AND CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

DECIMO

ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS WISHING TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS FOR DISSEMINATION OF HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES AMONG ARMED FORCES, ICRC IS IN PRINCIPLE PREPARED FINANCE LOCAL PRINTING OF 30.000 SUMMARIES OF GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND 15.000 SOLDIERS MANUALS IN AMHARIC FOR ESTIMATED COST OF 30.000 SWISS FRANCS

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 07722 02 OF 02 121106Z

UNDECIMO

THIS APPEAL AND OPERATIONS PLAN HAS BEEN WORKED OUT IN CLOSE
CONSULTATION WITH LEAGUE STAFF GENEVA, LEAGUE DELEGATE
MOGADISHU, AND ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI RED CROSS AND CRESCENT
SOCIETIES. LEAGUE HAS AGREED THAT MR. GUSSING WILL FULLY
PARTICIPATE IN ICRC EMERGENCY OPERATION BY ASSISTING SOMALI RED
CRESCENT IN RECEPTION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR OGADEN AND
ORGANIZING DISTRIBUTIONS CARRIED OUT JOINTLY WITH WSLF

J. -P. HOCKE,
DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS.
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VANDEN HEUVEL

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